

SECRET

SAPC-26708 ✓

Copy 1 of 5

24 April 1958

MEMORANDUM TO : Project Director

25X1A

THRU : Mr. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Reliability of reworked "B" Camera.

1. In response to your office memorandum regarding reliability of reworked B cameras the following facts are cited for your information.

25X1A

A. There have been 12 missions run with the modified "B" camera. Nine of these missions (all training flights) have been run by Detachment B. Three of these missions had malfunctions, (all three were shutter failures). Detachment C ran three B missions, all operational. The "B" camera malfunctioned twice. The first malfunction evidently resulted from film sticking or folding on right side of the format. The cause of this could be condensation on film and not taking the preventative measure of periodically cycling film through the camera on way to target area. Incidentally, only fresh film w/o leader and trailer is being used. Film spooled at EK on new spooling lathe. [REDACTED] has not to this date given Headquarters a clue as to cause or type of malfunction on Mission 1734. They did state this second malfunction took place after 406 frames.

2. In summary.

A. Out of a total of 12 B missions, 5 failed giving a reliability factor of 59%.

B. At least three of the five failures were due to shutter malfunction, giving a reliability factor of 75%.

SECRET

~~SECRET~~

25X1A

C. The remaining 2 failures both at [REDACTED] are not definite but they appear to be film transport problems within the camera.

3. Conclusions:

A. Failures at Detachment B.

25X1A

a. In paragraph 6 b of [REDACTED] 24714 dated 28 February 1958 Subject: Trip report to West Coast week of 3 February 1958, the undersigned stated B camera "would operate with high reliability for 3 or 4 missions but unless constant and conscientious care were given the configurations reliability would start to drop off after that point." The first malfunction at Detachment B occurred on the fourth mission.

25X1A

B. Failures at [REDACTED]

a. These problems appear to be caused by insufficient attention to detail. It is quite possible the cassettes are being loaded too early and not being protected from high humidity and heat, secondly, the film is not being cycled on way to target area. Operations assures me that both detachments have been instructed to cycle film while in flight.

C. I still believe the modified "B" configuration is a better camera than the original model, but I also feel it must be handled with due respect to its complexity.

25X1A

[REDACTED]
L/COL., USAF

~~SECRET~~